

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 4-6, 11, and 14-16 have been amended. Claims 2-3 and 12-13 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4-11, and 14-20 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, an acknowledgement is made of Applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in the European Patent Office on 12/22/1999. The Office Action indicates that Applicant has not filed a certified copy of the European patent application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b). The Office Action further indicates that the copy of the European patent application which was filed with the U.S. Patent Application does not have any seal and/or ribbon. Applicant notes that the copy of European Patent Application No. EP99610080.6 filed with the present application was accompanied by a Certificate indicating that "[t]he attached documents are exact copies of the European patent application described on the following page, as originally filed." Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that a certified copy of European Patent Application No. EP99610080.6 has been filed.

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. In particular, the Office Action indicates that "...the specification only mentions that the step control signal u_t^k , preferably depends on the clocking signal C_t^k , but fails to adequately disclose how the step control signal u_t^k are derived and obtained." The Office Action asserts that "...a person of ordinary skill in the art, without an adequate teaching of how to derive and obtain the step control signal u_t^k , would take an undue amount of experimentation to make and use the claimed invention." Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Page 13, line 1-4 of the specification as originally filed describes an embodiment of the present invention in which "[t]he clocking signals are derived by a step pattern subsystem (202) which receives a step control signal (u_t^k) from each [PN sequence] generator (201)." Applicant respectfully submits that it is known in the art to obtain a step control signal from a

PN sequence generator. For example, the A5/1 algorithm used in GSM mobile telephone systems uses a known method to derive such a clock control signal (see for example, Bruce Schneier, Applied Cryptography: Protocols, algorithms, and source code in C, 2nd ed, ISBN-0-471-12845-7, 1996). Applicant respectfully submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be faced with an undue amount of experimentation to make and/or use the claimed invention and requests that the 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejection of claims 1-20 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-6 and 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the Office Action indicates that “the recitation ‘a combined value’ is indefinite as to what it is and what are combined.” Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the feature of “wherein said combined value (U_t) is provided on the basis of said plurality of step control values (u_t) and on the basis of a plurality of prior clock values (C_{t-1}).” Applicant has amended independent claim 11 to include the feature of “providing said combined value (U_t) on the basis of said plurality of step control values (u_t) and on the basis of a plurality of prior clock values (C_{t-1}).” Support for the amendments to independent claims 1 and 11 may be found in at least claims 3 and 13, respectively, as originally filed. In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection of claims 2-6 and 12-16 be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 7, 9-11, 17, 19, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Applicant’s alleged admission of prior art on pages 2-4 and Figure 1 of the present application. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the features of “wherein said step pattern select signal (W_t) is derived on the basis of a combined value (U_t) and one or more previously derived step pattern select signals (W_{t-1})”; “wherein said plurality of sequence generator units further outputs a plurality of step control values (u_t)”; and “wherein said combined value (U_t) is provided on the basis of said plurality of step control values (u_t) and on the basis of a plurality of prior clock values (C_{t-1}).” Support for the amendments to independent claim 1 may be found in at least claims 2-3 as originally filed. Independent claim 11 has been amended to include the features of “deriving said step pattern select signal (W_t) on the basis of a combined value (U_t) and one or more previously derived step pattern select signals (W_{t-1})”;

“generating a plurality of step control values (u_t)”; and “providing said combined value (U_t) on the basis of said plurality of step control values (u_t) and on the basis of a plurality of prior clock values (C_{t-1}).” Support for the amendments to independent claim 11 may be found in at least claims 12-13 as originally filed. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(a) rejection of claims 1 and 11 be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 9-10, 17, 19, and 20 are dependent upon and include the features of their respective independent claims 1 and 11. Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 102(a) rejection of claims 7, 9-10, 17, 19, and 20 be withdrawn.

Claims 8 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant’s admission of prior art on pages 2-4 and Figure 1 of the present application in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,032,763 to Glitz (“Glitz”). Claims 8 and 18 are dependent upon and include the features of independent claims 1 and 11. Glitz describes a circuit arrangement for producing pseudo-random binary signal sequences having a long period of duration. Glitz describes using at least one feedback connected shift register having an original signal sequence in order to produce an interfering signal which alters the signal sequence being produced by the shift register, and interchanging the signal sequences supplied to the shift register under the control of signals from a setting program and/or control signals derived from the binary signal sequences. Glitz further describes that when more than one shift register is used, the output sequences of the registers may be linked together by a logic circuit to form the pseudo-random binary sequences of long duration.

Applicant respectfully submits that Glitz fails to teach or suggest at least the features of independent claim 1 as amended of “deriving said step pattern select signal (W_t) on the basis of a combined value (U_t) and one or more previously derived step pattern select signals (W_{t-1})”; “generating a plurality of step control values (u_t)”; and “providing said combined value (U_t) on the basis of said plurality of step control values (u_t) and on the basis of a plurality of prior clock values (C_{t-1}).” In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that Glitz fails to teach or suggest at least the features of independent claim 11 as amended of “deriving said step pattern select signal (W_t) on the basis of a combined value (U_t) and one or more previously derived step pattern select signals (W_{t-1})”; “generating a plurality of step control values (u_t)”; and “providing said

combined value (U_t) on the basis of said plurality of step control values (u_t) and on the basis of a plurality of prior clock values (C_{t-1}).” Applicant respectfully requests that the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 8 and 18 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, each of the presently-pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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